

History

Originally, Bottle Lake Forest was a coastal landscape of dunes and ephemeral wetlands.

For centuries the Maori utilised the area for eeling and fishing, and the native plants provided materials for fish-traps, weaving and medicines. Following European settlement in 1851, farming was tried on the 'Sandhills Run', but was unsuccessful. The City Council bought the land in 1878 and by 1883 the first block of forestry was planted to stabilise the land and to provide a commercial return. Other uses the forest has been put to includes military training, a sawmill and a piggery. By the 1970's some walking tracks were being cut. Today, the combined uses of production forestry and recreation are the main focus. And where is Bottle Lake? This original lake is now part of the Windsor Golf Club and is a willow swamp.

Recreational Opportunities

Over 400,000 people visit the 1000 hectare Bottle Lake Forest each year, enjoying the signposted network of roads, mountain-bike tracks, horse-trekking trails and walking tracks. There is something for everyone, with long and short options to suit all ages and levels of fitness.

Some tracks link up with the Spencer Park recreational area, the coastline, and the Southern Pegasus Bay shared track.

The opportunities for extended day walks and bike rides are considerable. Motorised bikes and vehicles not permitted in park.

Dogs are welcome make sure they are under effective control at all time.

At the main car park there are toilets, and a visitor centre. Map boards and brochures have details of tracks and trails.



Production Forest

Bottle Lake is a working forest, and tracks are closed from time to time.

Logging operations can be undertaken at any time, including felling and thinning operations, skid sites and stacks of logs. Remember that logging trucks and other heavy operational vehicles use the forest roads. Safety is your responsibility

Operational logging areas are usually clearly sign posted and marked "out of bounds". For your own safety please obey these temporary restrictions.

Fire Danger

Fire is a constant threat to this forest. The lighting of fires is forbidden. If you see smoke or fire please phone 111 immediately.

How not to get lost!

Bottle Lake is organised as a pine production forest with a grid-like pattern of roads, which can be confusing.

The north-south roads are named alphabetically Apple, Bravo, Charlie etc across to the beach. The east-west avenues are numbered sequentially, starting from 10th by Spencer Park to the 28th by Parklands. Most junctions are signposted.

Further Information

For further information on this or any other Christchurch park:

Tel: 03 941 8999
Fax: 03 941 8033
Email: LeisureandParks@ccc.govt.nz
Address: PO Box 237, Christchurch
Website: www.ccc.govt.nz/parks



Rangers offer free education programmes for schools. Contact our teacher for bookings: learningthroughaction@ccc.govt.nz or www.ccc.govt.nz/learningthroughaction Selwyn Plantation Board website: www.spbl.co.nz

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